

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 A method of interfacing with a communication station, the method
2 comprising:
3 receiving semi-structured data from a personal digital assistant (PDA) in a
4 format native to the PDA;
5 parsing the semi-structured data to identify a type of the semi-structured
6 data;
7 sending a job to a destination indicated by the semi-structured data, if the
8 semi-structured data is destination data.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the PDA wirelessly transmits the
2 semi-structured data, in a standard PDA format, to the communication station.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the PDA is physically coupled to
2 the communication station when sending the semi-structured data.

1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 prompting a user to select one of the plurality of destinations, if the
3 destination data indicates a plurality of destinations.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the destination dictates how the
2 data is sent.

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1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising e-mailing the data if the
2 destination is an e-mail address, and faxing the data if the destination is a fax
3 number.

1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 fetching information from a source indicated by the source-location data,
3 if the semi-structured data is source-location data; and
4 prompting a user to select the destination for the information.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the destination may be one or more
2 of the following: a copy feature of the communication device, an e-mail address,
3 and a fax number.

1 9. The method of claim 7, wherein fetching information comprises:
2 connecting to a network;
3 connecting to the source; and
4 downloading the information from the source.

1 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 fetching information from a search location, if the semi-structured data is
3 a search request; and
4 prompting the user to select the destination for the job based on the
5 information.

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11. The method of claim 10, wherein a search request comprises an incomplete data set.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein fetching information comprises:
connecting to a network;
connecting to the source; and
downloading the information from the source.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the search location is one or more of the following: an internal directory of users, an electronic white pages.

14. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
if the data is not recognized, prompting the user to identify a data type.

15. An apparatus for sending data from a communication station, the apparatus comprising:

- a communication interface to receive semi-structured data from a personal digital assistant (PDA) in a format native to the PDA;
- a parser to parse the semi-structured data and to identify a type of the semi-structured data;
- sending logic to send appropriate data to a destination indicated by the structured data.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the communication interface receives the data over an infrared beam in a standard PDA format.

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1 17. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the communication interface
2 further comprises a socket for receiving the PDA to enable physical coupling of
3 the PDA to the communication station to send the semi-structured data.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:
2 a data structure logic to generate structured data from the semi-structured
3 data and to determine if the destination data indicates a plurality of destinations;
4 and
5 a user interface to prompt a user to select one of the plurality of
6 destinations.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the destination dictates how the
2 data is sent.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 19, further comprises e-mailing the data if
2 the destination is an e-mail address, and faxing the data if the destination if a fax
3 number.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:
2 a retrieving logic to receive the structured data if the semi-structured data
3 is source-location data, the retrieving logic further to fetch information from a
4 source indicated by the source-location data; and
5 a user interface to prompt a user to select the destination for the
6 information.

1 28. The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising:
2 the user interface to prompt the user to identify a data type if the data is
3 not recognized.

1 29. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:
2 a PDA interface for indicating to the PDA what actions were performed.

30. A method of sending data from a communication station, the method comprising:

- receiving semi-structured data from a personal digital assistant (PDA) in a format native to the PDA;
- parsing the semi-structured data to identify a type of the semi-structured data;
- acting on data in the manner indicated by the semi-structured data and a user; and
- returning a confirmation receipt to the PDA in a format native to the PDA, the confirmation receipt including a unique identification (ID).

1 31. The method of claim 30, wherein the unique ID includes
2 document/data sent, destination, and method of sending.

32. The method of claim 30, further comprising:
if the semi-structured data includes the unique ID, retrieving data
associated with the unique ID, and permitting the user to reuse the data.

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33. The method of claim 32, wherein reusing the data comprises one or
2 more of the following: re-printing a job, reusing addresses, reusing
3 document/data, and pulling up the data on a different communications
4 appliance.

34. A system comprising:
2 a personal digital assistant (PDA);
3 a communications appliance coupled to a network;
4 a memory for storing a unique job identification (job ID) for each job
5 handled by the communications appliance.

6 the communications appliance comprising:
7 a communication interface to receive semi-structured data
8 from the PDA;
9 a parser to parse the semi-structured data and to identify a
10 type of the semi-structured data;
11 a sending logic for handing data based on the semi-
12 structured data received from the PDA; and
13 the communication interface for returning the job ID to the
14 PDA.

35. The system of claim 34, wherein the job ID may include one or
2 more of the following: identification of the item, destination of the item.

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1 36. The system of claim 35, wherein the destination of the item
2 comprises one or more of the following: printing, faxing to an address, e-mailing
3 to an address, and copying.

1 37. The system of claim 34, further comprising:
2 a user identification logic for identifying an owner of the PDA from whom
3 the data is received.

1 38. The system of claim 37, wherein the job ID further includes the
2 identity of the owner of the PDA.

1 39. The system of claim 37, wherein a job history may be displayed to
2 the user, when the user is identified.

1 40. The system of claim 37, wherein a stored list of addresses used by
2 the user in the past may be displayed to the user when the user is identified.

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